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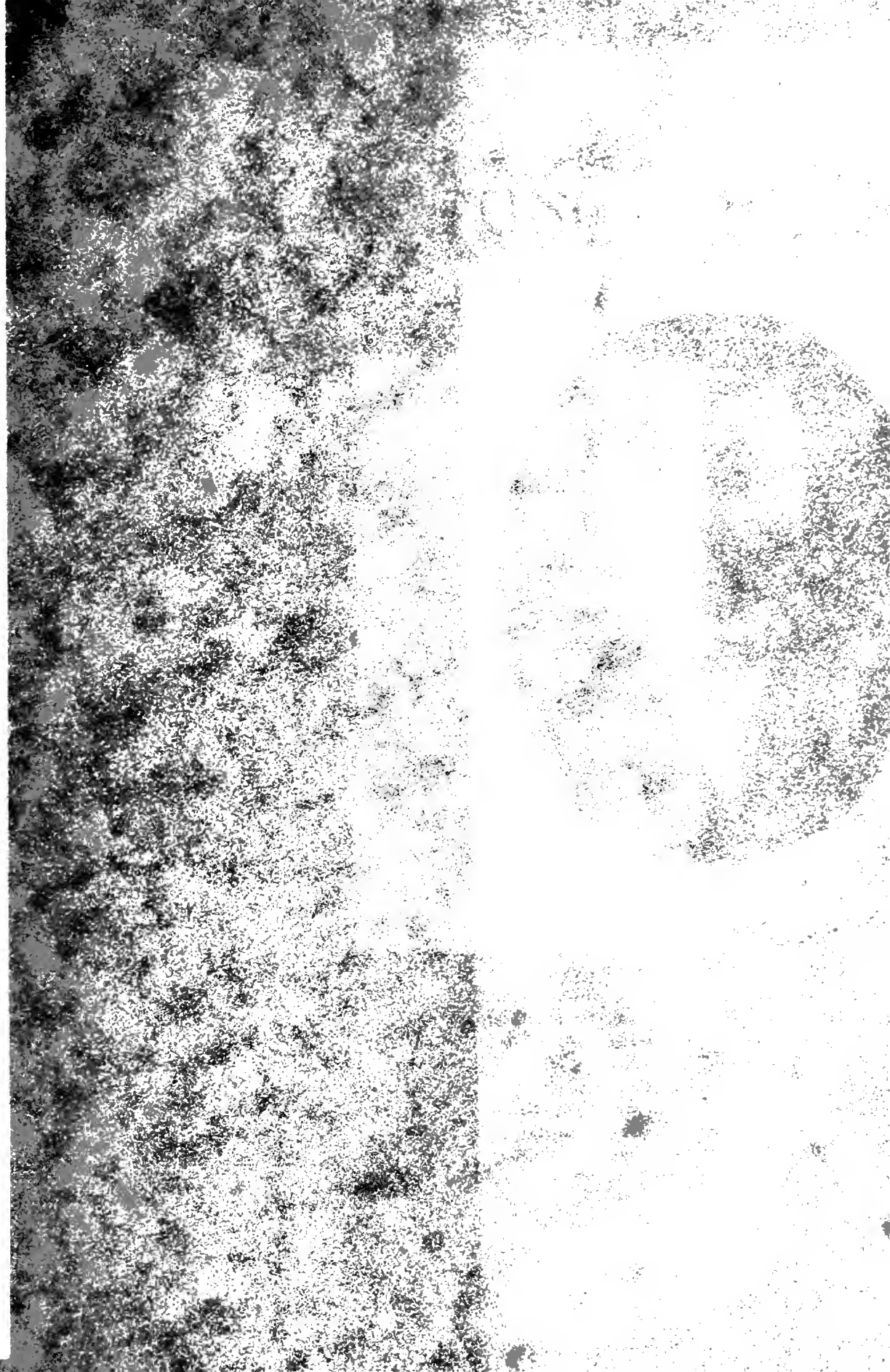

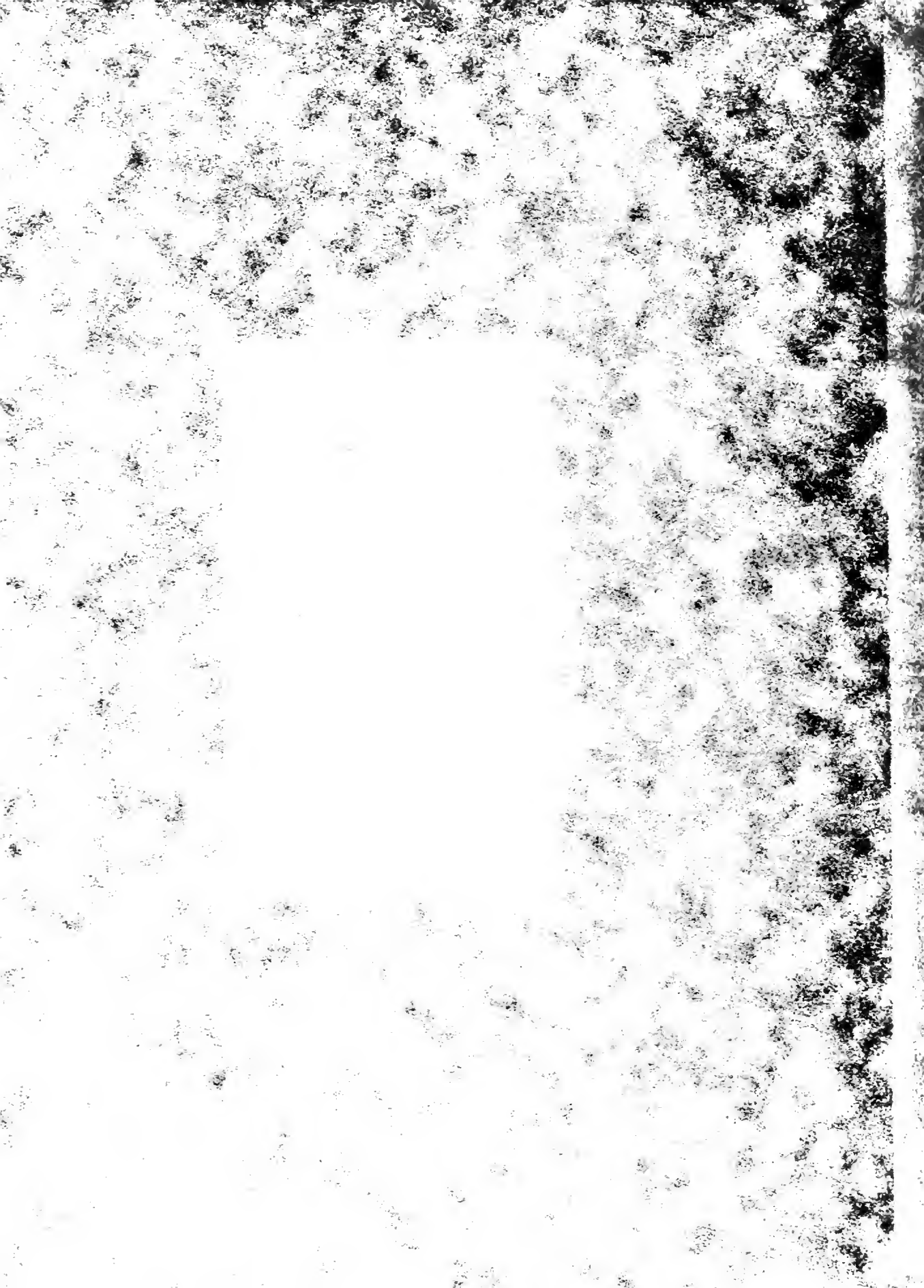

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F. B. OGDEN, Grand Master

gaged in the benevolent work of the Order, increasing in membership until the number reached some thirty; but when the grand rush for the mines came, in 1848, when the church became desolate, schools were broken up, the newspapers ceased their issues, the Odd Fellows made a bonfire of their books and papers, so that they should not fall into improper hands, stored their regalia, where it was afterward destroyed by one of those desolating fires which swept away the town at frequent intervals during those days—and they, too, joined in the hegira to the mountains in search of gold."

The same authority states that in the latter

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GREETING

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IN extending a cordial greeting to the fifty-sixth annual session of the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which assembles in the Capital City of the State in response to the earnest invitation extended one year ago by the Mayor, the City Council, the Chamber of Commerce and the Odd Fellows of Sacramento, it may not be inappropriate to briefly relate early incidents which linked the name of Sacramento with the history of the three-link fraternity on the Pacific Coast.

There is abundant evidence that there were quite a number of Odd Fellows in California prior to the arrival of even the vanguard of the gold-seekers, and at least one well authenticated attempt was made to plant the banner of the fraternity near the Golden Gate a year before the discovery of gold at Coloma.

On December 4, 1847, an advertisement, signed "Many Odd Fellows," appeared in the California Star, a pioneer newspaper of San Francisco, saying, "The friends of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows are respectfully invited to attend a meeting of the Order on Tuesday evening next, at the Portsmouth House."

In response to that call, about a dozen Odd Fellows, who had learned the lessons of the fraternity in the Eastern States, assembled at the time and place suggested, and, although they had no charter or dispensation from the Grand Lodge of the United States authorizing them so to do, they proceeded to organize a lodge and engage in the beneficent and charitable work of Odd Fellowship. Past Grand Master Charles N. Fox, in an article written for the "Official History of Odd Fellowship," says:

"There is no positive proof that this lodge ever attempted to initiate or confer degrees, but it provided itself with books and regalia, and engaged in the benevolent work of the Order, increasing in membership until the number reached some thirty; but when the grand rush for the mines came, in 1848, when the church became desolate, schools were broken up, the newspapers ceased their issues, the Odd Fellows made a bonfire of their books and papers, so that they should not fall into improper hands, stored their regalia, where it was afterward destroyed by one of those desolating fires which swept away the town at frequent intervals during those days—and they, too, joined in the hegira to the mountains in search of gold."

F. B. OGDEN, Grand Master

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JOHN E. RAKER, Deputy Grand Master

part of 1848 another lodge was instituted, "and upon this was conferred the first dispensation enjoyed by any fraternal association in California. But this dispensation was irregular, and the lodge was not properly instituted." Its records having also been destroyed by fire, little is known concerning its membership or work.

However, the first effective work of great moment accomplished by Odd Fellows, as such, in California, was at Sacramento. To give a correct idea of the condition then existing in what is now the Capital of the State, and which necessitated prompt and energetic action, we quote the following from the graphic pen of Bro. John F. Morse, who was Grand Master of the jurisdiction in 1853–4:

"From the first of August, 1849, the deluging tides of immigration began to roll into the city of San Francisco their hundreds and thousands daily; not men made robust and hearty by a comfortable sea voyage, but poor, miserable beings, so famished and filthy, so saturated by scorbutic diseases, so depressed and despondent in spirit as to make them the easy prey of disease and death, when they had expected naught but health and fortune. Thus did the mining adventurers pour into San Francisco, nine-tenths of whom for a few months took immediate passage for Sacramento.

"However debilitated they might be, however penniless and destitute, this city, the great focus of mining news, the nearest trading point for the mines situated upon a navigable stream, was the only place that men could think of stopping at for recuperative purposes. Hence, from Cape Horn, from all the Isthmian routes, from Asiatic seaports and from the islands of the Pacific, men of the most impoverished health were converging at Sacramento.

"But these were not the only sources of difficulty to Sacramento in 1849. At the same time that the scurvy-ridden subjects of the ocean began to concentrate among us, there was another more terrible train of scorbutic sufferers coming in from the overland roads, so exhausted in strength and so worn out with the calamities of the journey as to be but barely able to reach the Valley City.

"From these sources, Sacramento became a very lazar house of disease, suffering and death. It must be remembered that in proportion as these scenes began to accumulate, just in such proportion did men seem to grow indifferent to the appeals of suffering and the dictates of benevolence. The more urgent and importunate the miseries and beseeching cries of the sick and destitute, the more obdurate, despotic and terrible became the reign of cupidity. Everything seemed vocal with the assurance that men came to California to make money, not to devote themselves to a useless waste of time in procuring bread and raiment for the dependent, in watching over and taking care of the sick, or in the burying of the dead. * * * The first and most effective relief, the first organized efforts to 'visit the sick, relieve the distressed and bury the dead' were made by the Fraternity of Odd Fellows. The first lights of effective charity that gleamed upon the despairing visions of hundreds of the sick and dying, ascended from the 'altar fires' of this

glorious brotherhood, which the presiding genius of the institution had kindled."

On the morning of August 20, 1849, General A. M. Winn, formerly of Tennessee, but then a leading business man of the new city, had the following notice printed in handbill form and scattered throughout the town:

"I. O. O. F.—The Odd Fellows of Sacramento City will meet at the store of Winn, Baker & McGhee, on Third street, between J and K, this evening, August 20th, at 8 o'clock."

That evening the members of the Order met, in accordance with the notice, and were called to order by B. F. Hastings of Warren Lodge, No. 3, Vicksburg, Miss., and, on motion, Gen. A. M. Winn was called to the chair, and he explained the objects of the meeting as follows:

"BROTHERS: You are assembled under most extraordinary circumstances — we have not the power to work as a lodge, and yet the immense amount of suffering among the members of the Order requires our most active benevolence in carrying out the great principles taught us at the altar of Odd Fellowship. We have met for the purpose of finding out who of our citizens are Odd Fellows, and to form an association for the relief of sick and distressed brothers.

"A dreadful calamity has overtaken us—hundreds are lying sick, rolled in their filthy blankets, without wife, children or friends to nurse them while sick, or bury them when dead. We who have health and means should be liberal to those in distress, as long as in our power. Let us do all we can, without a violation of the principles of the Order "

Daniel McClaren was chosen Secretary, and B. F. Hastings offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That we will form an Association of Odd Fellows in Sacramento City, for the relief of the distressed members of the Order.

"Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to draft rules and regulations for our government.

"Resolved, That a Committee of Relief be now appointed, whose duty it shall be to collect by voluntary contributions from members of the Order an amount sufficient to relieve the distressed and bury the dead, until further provisions are made by the Association."

The Chair appointed as Committee on Rules and Regulations, Bros. B. F. Hastings, Daniel McLaren and Joseph C. Derby, and, on motion, the Chair was added to the committee.

On the Relief Committee the Chair appointed E. K. Gallup, Dennis Rideout, Isaac H. Norris, Samuel McNulty and James B. Cunningham.

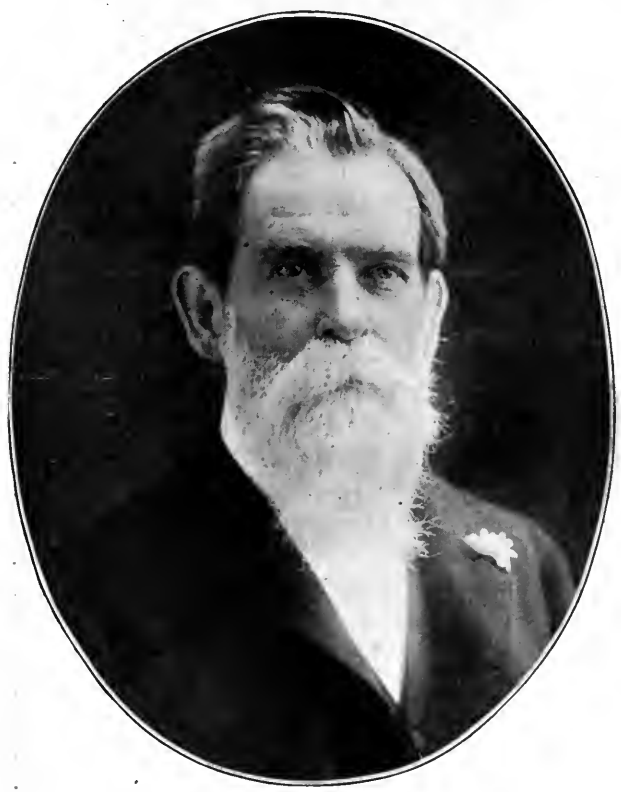
The meeting then adjourned till the 24th of August at 8 p. m., when the members of the Order met pursuant to adjournment, A. M. Winn in the Chair. The Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations reported the following:

CONSTITUTION.

1st. The name shall be the "Sacramento Odd Fellows Association."

2d. Its objects, to relieve the distressed and bury the dead.

3d. Its officers shall be a President, Vice-



GROVE L. JOHNSON, Grand Warden

H. D. RICHARDSON, Grand Secretary

President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall hold their offices one year and until their successors are elected, and shall perform the duties incident to their offices, as the Association may require.

The by-laws adopted at that time have been lost--were probably destroyed in the floods or fires that devastated the city in the early days, but the following record of the transactions of the meeting found its way into print in 1856:

"On motion, the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted, and the names of the following persons were registered as members of the Association: A. M. Winn, B. F. Hastings, Daniel McLaren, E. Meconekin, James A. Myer, Henry E. Robinson, Israel S. Chase, John Seymour, James A. Cunningham, J. Brown, Thos. Banister, M. E. Hedrick, John Taylor, O. C. Osborne, Joseph B. Adams, Samuel Smith, Ephraim Martin, Samuel McNulty, J. C. Stambaugh, W. F. Dietz, H. R. Bradway, E. S. Elsworth, James A. Reed, John H. Flender, A. Barker, August F. Taylor, Wm. Kesey, Benjamin Carter, D. O. Mills, C. E. Warren, Woodberry Masters, E. H. Hall, L. A. Booth, A. C. Watson, W. D. Drake, J. C. Jones, D. C. Ashcraft, R. G. Random, Wm. P. Sawyer, J. R. Welden, E. K. Gallup, John Ledger, C. J. Hendrake, Robert Hammet, R. G. Slaughter, C. F. Hart, Gilbert L. Sees, Henry Bates, J. O. Derby, Isaac N. Norris, H. S. Merrill, Wm. Glaskin, Edward E Hunter.

On motion, the Association proceeded to elect officers, which resulted as follows: A. M. Winn, President; Edward E. Hunter, Vice-President; Daniel McLaren, Secretary; E. K. Gallup, Treasurer.

The Committee on Relief appointed at the former meeting was continued.

Several members of the Order were reported sick and committees were appointed to attend them. The Committee on Relief was directed to report all cases of sickness or distress to the President.

The President was vested with full power to do whatever he deemed necessary for the good of the Association or the members of the Order. The Secretary was directed to receive all moneys and pay the same to the Treasurer. The Treasurer was directed to receive all moneys from the Secretary and disburse the same on the warrant of the President, countersigned and numbered by the Secretary.

The admission fee was fixed at $5.00.

It was ordered that the regular meetings should be held every Friday evening at the President's office, on Third street, between J and K.

The foregoing are the only authenticated proceedings of this self-sacrificing and noble band of brothers that has been handed down to us, the record book having been lost in the flood of January, 1850. But from chronicles and traditions of the time it is learned that the membership performed with fidelity their self-assumed labors of love and contributed with unstinted hand the means necessary to bear the heavy expense entailed. The Association met regularly and the cases of sickness, distress and penury multiplied until it became necessary to add every member of the Association to the Relief Committee; their

labors were incessant; they frequently became ill from over-exertion, and some contracted fatal contagion from brothers whose suffering they sought to alleviate. Reports were made to the President day and night, and he proved a most worthy executive of as noble a band of Odd Fellows as ever took the obligations of the fraternity. Many

I. O. O. F. Temple owned exclusively by the Odd Fellows of Sacramento

of them left their indelible impress upon the political, educational and industrial history of the State.

Past Grand Master Morse, writing of the work accomplished by those pioneer Odd Fellows, said:

"From this Association, the history of which would thrill the heart of every lover of humanity, an immense and immeasurable amount of relief was dispensed. But this was not sufficient to dissipate the increasing calamity. Men still sickened and died without assistance; men were still buried in the filth of an unattended sickness, and frequently without the benefit of being sewed up in a blanket for interment. Rough pine coffins ranged from $60.00 to $150.00, and it was not to be expected that in the midst of such distress and poverty coffins could always be procured. This Association spent thousands of dollars for coffins alone, and when General Winn became the execu-

tive officer of the city government, no man was refused a coffin burial."

This Association maintained its existence and continued to "visit the sick, relieve the distressed and bury the dead" until the organization of Sacramento Lodge, No. 2, which was instituted on January 28, 1851, by Past Grand James Smiley, acting as Deputy Grand Sire.

Since that time there have been instituted in Sacramento City five more lodges—Eureka, No. 4; El Dorado, No. 8; Capitol, No. 87; Schiller, No.

ALBION C. SWEETSER
Oldest Living California Initiate, Initiated in Eureka Lodge, No. 4, March 24, 1852

105 and Industrial, No. 157; and in Sacramento County, outside of the city, six other lodges—Granite, No. 62; Phoenix, No 239; Elk Grove, No. 274; Florin, No. 364; Isleton, No. 108 and Oak Park, No. 5.

The twelve lodges in Sacramento County had on January 1, 1908, a combined membership of 2,059, and their joint assets aggregated $500,000.

ODD FELLOWS' H

The above is a true picture of the I. O. O. F. bluff across the Feather River from Oroville. It sented is hard to surpass. There are now domicile wards, who are provided with all the necessarie improvements have been made in the Home du adding to the comfort of the residents. Concernin their report to the Grand Lodge in 1907, "The hea remarkable. * * * The average age of those was 84 years; only five died who were under the ag

AT THERMALITO

Thermalito. The building stands on the brow of a
ded by orange and olive groves, and the view pre-
Home some one hundred and thirty of the Order's
ny of the comforts and luxuries of life. Many
last year, enlarging its rooming capacity, and
alth of the location, the Board of Trustees said in
ions of the Home the past year have been simply
d was 76 years. The average age of five of them
d only three who were under the age of 70 years."

Within the city and county we have ten Rebekah Lodges—Rising Star, No. 8; Florin, No. 20; Germania, No. 31; Rei, No. 132; Elk Grove, No. 136; Capital City, No. 160; Fedora, No. 166; Hogate, No. 294, and Leota, No. 301. All of these are in a flourishing condition.

The Encampment branch of the Order is represented by four energetic and active subordinates—Pacific, No. 2; Folsom, No. 24; Occidental, No. 42, and Galt, No. 65.

The Grand Lodge of California has honored

WILLIAM BECKMAN
Second Oldest Living California Initiate, Initiated in Sacramento Lodge, No. 2, January 23, 1853

Sacramento hitherto five times by holding its annual sessions in this city, as follows: in 1854, 1858, 1860, 1864 and 1871. At the latter date the membership in the Order in this jurisdiction was 13,706. Today our membership is 42,232.

On all previous occasions, Sacramento's citizens extended a welcome to the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and we, the

MRS. ELLA VAN COURT
President Rebekah Assembly

authorized representatives of all the Subordinate and Rebekah Lodges, Encampments and the Patriarchs Militant, today extend cordial and hearty greetings to the officers and representatives of the fifty-sixth annual communication of the Grand Lodge and the eighteenth annual session of the Rebekah Assembly of California and their friends, and it is our sincere, heartfelt hope that during your brief sojourn with us

"The nights will be filled with music,
And the cares that oppress the day
Will fold their tents like the Arabs,
And as quietly steal away."

THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

Program

MONDAY, MAY 11TH

Initiatory degree by El Dorado Lodge, No. 8, at Temple Hall, Ninth and K Streets, at 8 p. m.

TUESDAY, MAY 12TH

Grand Lodge session at Pavilion Hall, Sixth and M streets, at 9 a. m.

Rebekah Assembly at Elks' Hall, 824 J Street.

Reception at Crocker Art Gallery, Third and O Streets, at 8 p. m. (Take any west bound car and transfer to Third Street line.)

Reception Program

1. Introductory remarks by Gen. O. W. Erlewine, Chairman of Reception Committee.
2. Address of welcome by Gov. J. N. Gillett.
3. Address of welcome by Mayor C. L. White.
4. Address of welcome by Brother Grove L. Johnson.
5. Response by Grand Master F. B. Ogden.
6. Response by Ella E. Van Court, President Rebekah Assembly.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13TH

Excursion to Oroville by Grand Lodge.

Leave Northern Electric Depot, Eighth and J Streets, at 8 a. m. Train will arrive at Odd Fellows' Home at 10:30. Lunch will be served on the grounds at 12:30. Returning, train will leave the Home at 2:30 o'clock and proceed to Oroville where there will be a stop of half an hour, leaving Oroville at 3:30 o'clock, sharp, arriving at Sacramento about 6:30 o'clock in the evening.

(Transportation will be furnished free to all Representatives, Grand Officers and Past Grand Masters in attendance. Members of the family may accompany the Representatives by obtaining tickets at a cost of $2.10, being one-half the regular fare.

EVENING

Rebekah degree at Pavilion Hall by Rainbow Rebekah Lodge, No. 97, of Stockton.

MRS. LIZZIE L. COOMBS
Vice-President Rebekah Assembly

THURSDAY, MAY 14TH

Session of Grand Lodge.
Session of Rebekah Assembly.

EVENING

Initiatory degree at Pavilion Hall by Charity Lodge, No. 6, of Stockton.

Rebekah degree at Elks' Hall by Capital City Rebekah Lodge, No. 160, of Sacramento.

FRIDAY, MAY 15TH

Session of Grand Lodge.
Session of Rebekah Assembly.

EVENING

Ball at Pavilion Hall.

Refreshments

During the week the Rebekah Lodges of Sacramento County will serve refreshments in the banquet room at Odd Fellows' Temple, Ninth and K Streets, on the afternoon of each day as follows:

Tuesday — Rei of Galt, Florin, Sacramento, Germania, and Hogate of Isleton.

Wednesday — All Rebekah Lodges of the County.

Thursday—Fedora of Folsom and Rising Star of Sacramento.

Friday — Elk Grove, Capital City of Sacramento, and Leota of Oak Park.

MRS. IVA S. RAKER
Warden Rebekah Assembly

Committee of Arrangements

GEN. O. W ERLEWINE, Chairman

SUBORDINATE LODGES

Sacramento, No. 2—C. W. Baker, A. W. O'Brien, N. Wilcox.

Eureka, No. 4—D. F. Fox, C. F. Hatteson, W. F. Meldrum.

Oak Park, No. 5—G. W. Houghton, C. W. Guild, W. H. Roberts.

El Dorado, No. 8—J. C. March, H. F. G. Wulff, W. B. DeCosta.

Granite, No. 62—F. T. Taylor, J. E. Butler, T. H. Betz.

Capitol, No. 87—G. E. Van Demark, Chas. A. Bliss, N. Harvie.

Schiller, No. 105—P. Newman, Geo. Littig, A. H. Gerhardt.

Isleton, No. 108—P. G. de Back, W. W. Smith, T. J. Mealer.

Industrial, No. 157—C. M. Harrison, W. L. Rickett, Wm. Trapper.

Phoenix, No. 239—J. W. Angrave, V. E. Kreeger, W. T. Davies.

Elk Grove, No. 274—J. Mahon, T. Duffy, Jas. Costello.

Florin, No. 364—H. A. Leimbach, R. Cornelius, F. F. Kennedy.

REBEKAH LODGES

Rising Star, No. 8—Mrs. Vesta Mannix, Mrs. Carrie Aiken, Mrs. Annie Sherburn.

Florin, No. 20—Mrs. Mira Reese, Mrs. Nellie Stubbs, Mrs. Florence Hollman.

Germania, No. 31—Mrs. R. Hogue, Mrs. May Lindsay, Mrs. W. E. Johnson.

Rei, No. 132—Miss Hattie Wright, Mrs. Jennie V. Riston, Miss Rose Garcide.

Elk Grove, No. 136—Miss Ruth Gage, Mrs. Stella Kennedy, Miss Julia Putney.

Capital City, No. 160—Mrs. Laura Fox, Mrs. Frankie Carlaw, Mrs. Jennie Egan.

Fedora, No. 166—Carrie Slocum, Hannah Klumph, Addie Surbaugh.

Sacramento, No. 232—Mrs. Etta Starr, Mrs. Emma Wild, Mrs. Annie Gardner.

Hogate, No. 294—Mrs. P. G. de Back, Mrs. T. J. Mealer, Mrs. Alice Byron.

Leota, No. 301—Amanda Olmsted, Mrs. Belle Hale, Mrs. Mary McCormick.

ENCAMPMENTS

Pacific, No. 2—D. J. Mannix, L. R. Plate, J. H. Moon.

Folsom, No. 24—T. H. Betz, F. T. Taylor, J. H. Hendricks.

Occidental, No. 42—A. F. Raymond, W. H. Renwick, A. N. Bullock.

Galt, No. 66—V. E. Kreeger, J. W. Angrave, W. T. Davies.

PATRIARCHS MILITANT

Canton Sacramento, No. 1—W. E. Bowman, W. H. Sherburn, O. W. Erlewine

MRS. MARY E. DONOHO
Secretary Rebekah Assembly

PRESS OF A. N. BULLOCK, I. O. O. F. BLDG.

Committee of Arrangements

GEN. O. W ERLEWINE, Chairman

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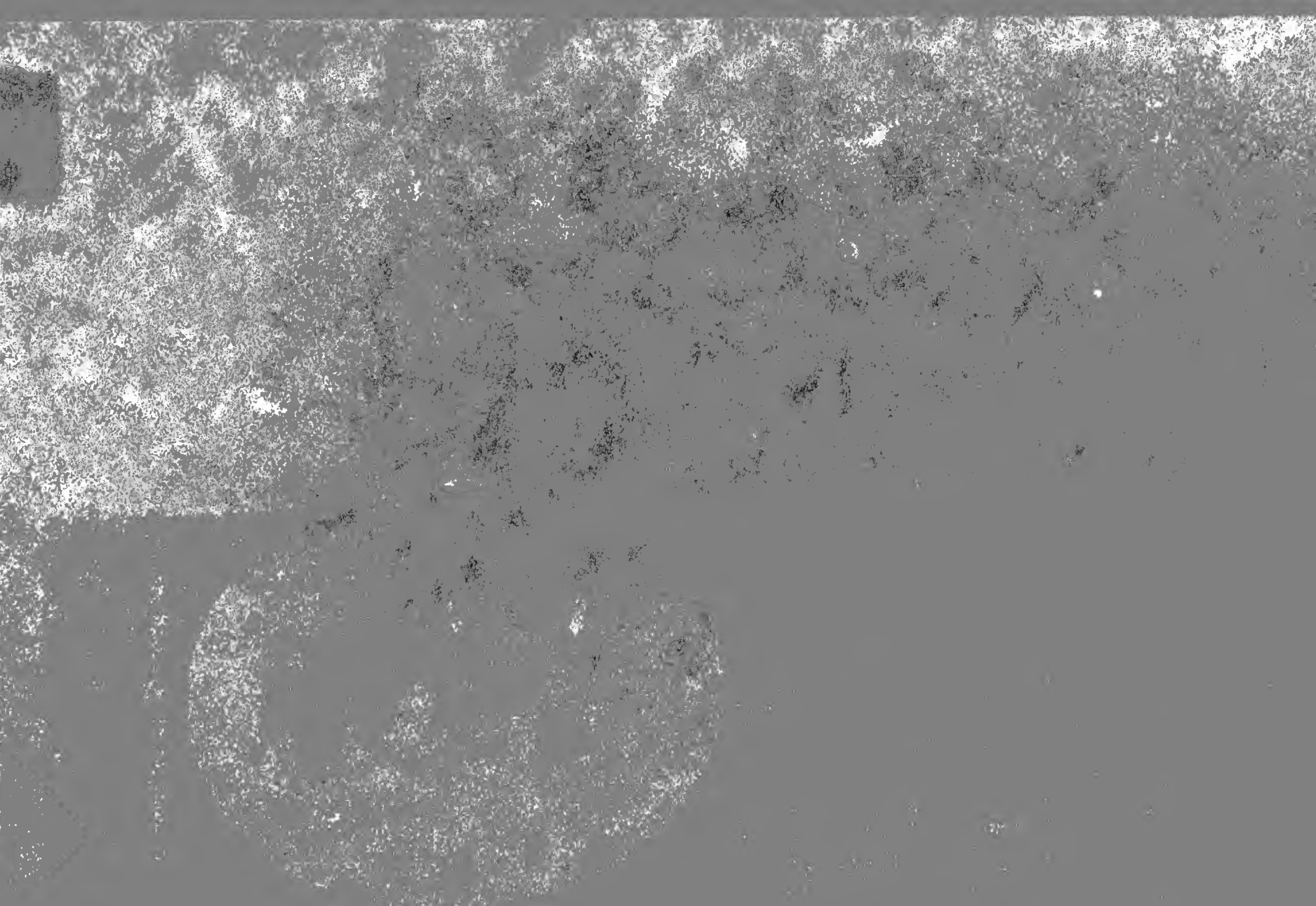
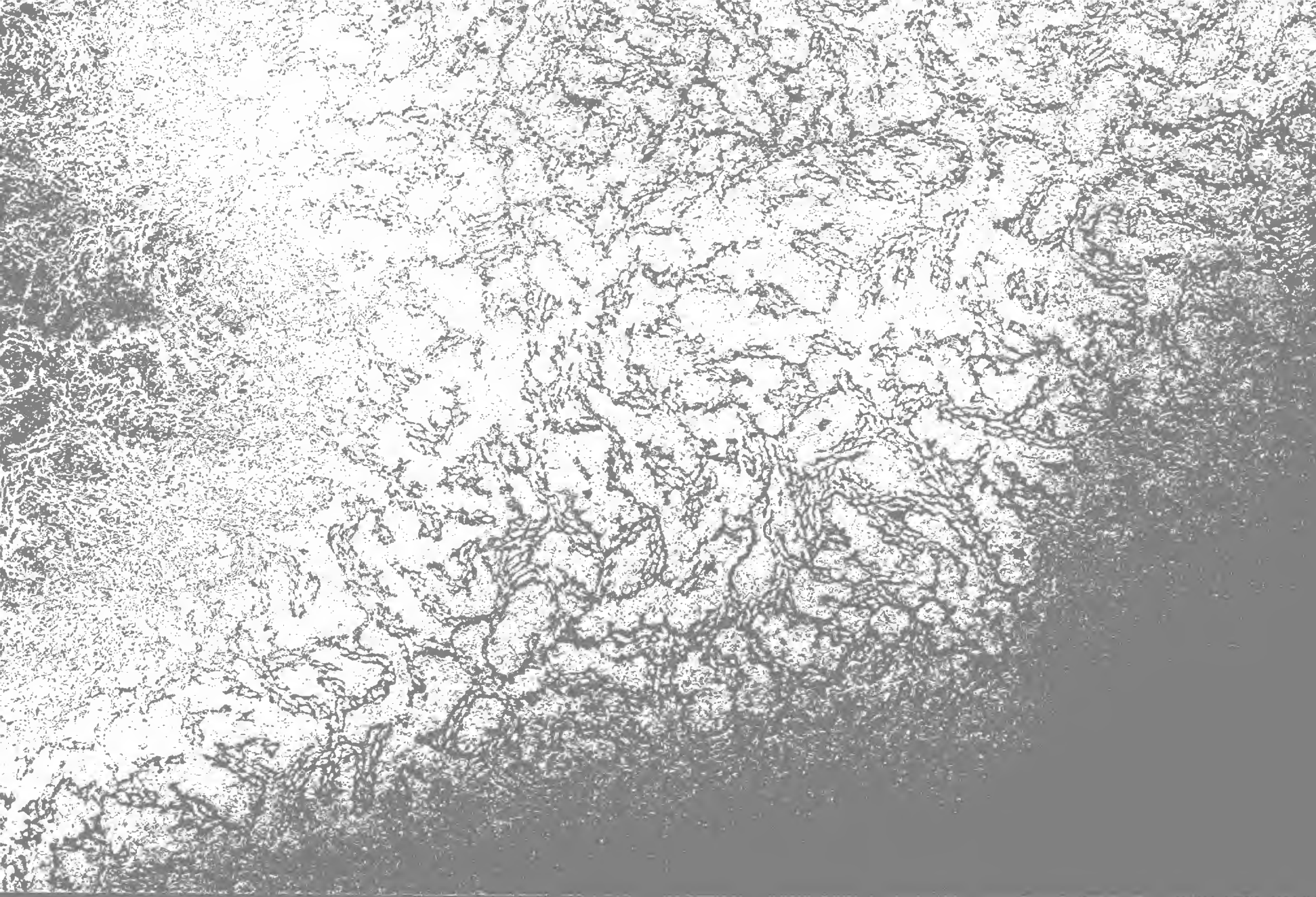
Gaylord
PAMPHLET BINDER
Syracuse, N. Y.
Stockton, Calif.